



PATENTS  
Attorney Docket No. STE-023.01  
43342

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Kevin Gordon Jr. )  
Application No: 10/633,177 )  
Filed: August 1, 2003 )  
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR )  
WELDING OF PARTS )  
 )  
Art Unit: 1734  
Confirmation No.: 4889  
Examiner: George R. Koch

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the following paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 25, 2005.

Shirine Darvish  
Shirine Darvish

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant hereby brings to the Examiner's attention the references listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449. The references were cited in the International Search Report for the PCT application corresponding to the above-identified application, a copy of which Report is enclosed herein for the Examiner's convenience. These references are in foreign languages, and were previously provided in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 15, 2005, but without translation or explanation

of relevance. Translations and explanations of relevance are provided herewith, as set forth herein, to the extent required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), and more particularly explained in MPEP §609.A(3), recognizing that the Examiner may conclude that the relevance of the cited references may differ from that set forth herein. Attached hereto are translations of the abstracts for the three cited patent applications, and the English-language translation of the claims of EP 0 781 876, which corresponds to the cited patent reference DE 44 29 684. In addition, we provide the following explanations of relevance:

DE-A-34 29 776 relates to a method for quality control during the ultrasonic welding process. For enabling an improved quality control during the ultrasonic welding process, it is suggested to acquire and evaluate partially the demand for energy and the energy progression, respectively, per unit of time (see page 7, lines 10-22). For this purpose, an actual curve is acquired to be compared with a set curve (page 11, lines 18-24). Thereby, the comparison takes place in preset time intervals, as shown on page 7 (1.c.) and particularly in Fig. 1.

DE-A-31 38 520 teaches a method for limiting the welding energy transferred to a workpiece during the ultrasonic welding of plastics. Thereby, the applied energy is determined. If the applied energy value reaches a present limiting value, the energy supply will be interrupted (see page 3, lines 15, 16, 28, 29).

"Ultraschallschweißmaschine mit Programmspeicher, April 1, 1989 (1989-04-01) Kunststoffe, Carl Hanser Verlag, München, DE, page 314" relates to the monitoring of the welding process including a quality control. For this purpose, a nominal/actual value comparison takes place. In case the actual curve leaves a preset permissible variation, this is displayed.

"Potente H et al: Prozessoptimierung und Online-Prozessüberwachung beim Ultraschallschweißen, 1. Mai 1994 (1994-05-02), Plastverarbeiter, Zechner und Huefthig Verlag GmbH, Speyer/Rhein, DE, pages 68, 70, 73-74, 76" relates to the process optimization and online monitoring during the ultrasonic welding process. Here, it is provided that at the control of an ultrasonic welding machine quality relevant desired value such as energy, trigger force and welding load can be varied.

"Guarltiero Picchio, Novita Nella Saldatura A Ultrasuoni, Interplastics, Technique Nuove, Milan, IT, Bd. 14, No. 4, July 1, 1991 (1991-07-01), pages 84-86": The following are translations of the portions of this citation that were mentioned in the International Search Report:

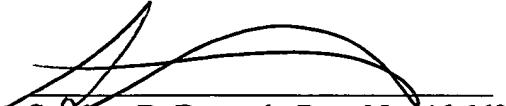
Page 84, 2nd column 1st paragraph: "Here, new welding parameters (welding energy, control of final dimension of the work-piece, control of the melting of the energy transmitter) have been used for the first time, namely either separately or in combination with the traditional parameters being dependent on the welding time and cooling time. Thanks to these innovations the welding energy expressed in joule became a significant parameter (Fig. 2)."

Page 85, 3rd column, 1st line to page 86, 1st column, 5th line: "Another interesting feature of this machine is the possibility to amend the welding time automatically such with help of the so-called Tec Mode (control levelling of time and energy), that in a preset range always the same welding energy is applied. This operation mode enables to reduce considerably the percentage reject rate."

Please charge the fee of \$180 prescribed in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and/or any additional fee occasioned by this paper, to our Deposit Account No. 06-1448, Reference STE-023.01.

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